

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 October 2005 (06.10.2005)

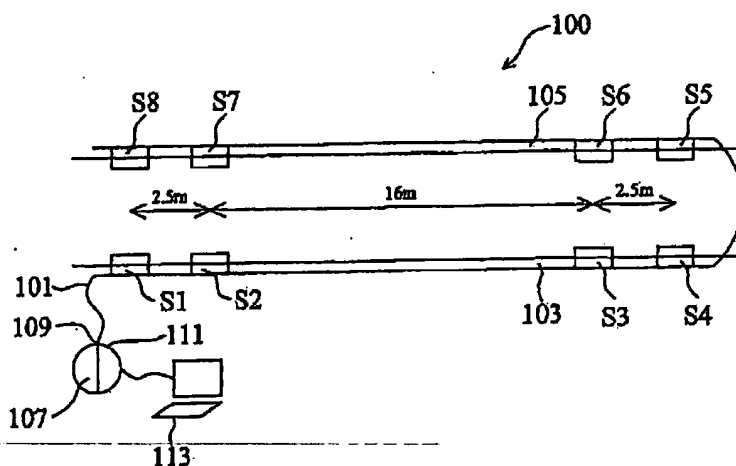
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2005/093971 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: H04B 10/00
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/CN2005/000385
- (22) International Filing Date: 25 March 2005 (25.03.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 04251840.7 29 March 2004 (29.03.2004) EP
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY [CN/CN]; Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong (CN).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TAM, Hwa Yaw [GB/CN]; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong (CN). HO, Sin Lau [CN/CN]; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong (CN). LIU, Michael Shun Yee [CN/CN]; The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong (CN).
- (74) Agent: CHINA SINDA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LIMITED; B11th Floor, Focus Place, 19 Financial Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100032 (CN).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BI, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: RAILWAY MONITORING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A railway monitoring system firstly includes an optical fiber. A first part of the fiber is attachable to one of a pair of tracks of a rail, and a characteristic of the first part of the fiber is variable in correspondence to variance of a characteristic of said one track where the first part of fiber is attached. The system also includes an optical signal emitter connected to the fiber for emitting an optical signal into the fiber, and the fiber generates at least a first altered optical signal, which contains information relating to the variance of the characteristic of the part of the fiber. The system further includes an optical signal analyzer connected to the fiber for receiving and analyzing the first altered optical signal so as to ascertain the variance of said characteristic of said one track based upon the information contained in the first altered optical signal.



**Published:**

— with international search report

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